Prospects of export to China

†2964. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the FICCI has stated in its survey report, "Diversifying India's Export to China" that there is a huge possibility of export to China;

(b) if so, the main points of this report togetherwith the Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to boost the exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is stated in the report that China is an important export destination, presently Indian exports are restricted to select few items, the major items in which India could cater to Chinese requirements are engineering goods, minerals and ores, chemicals and allied products, textile yarn and cotton yarn fabrics, agri products, IT products, etc. This report is proposed to be discussed in a workshop before being finalised.

(c) Steps being taken, on an ongoing basis, for Indian exports to China include participation in trade fairs/exhibitions, exchanges of delegations at both governmental and business levels, exchange of information, etc.

Demands for tea in gulf countries

†2965. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that demand of tea has increased in the gulf countries;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Governments of these countries have offered several concessions/facilities to encourage the Indian tea companies;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if not, the reasons for not showing any interest in the scheme relating to auction centre to be established in the said countries specially in Dubai?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir. There is no definite trend to indicate such an increase.

(b) and (c) As per information available, the Government of Dubai has launched an initiative to attract and facilitate business in the newly established Dubai Tea Trading Centre (DTTC). This centre is located in the Jebel-Ali Free Trade Zone in Dubai and offers facilities for producers from different producing countries to stock teas for supply primarily to byers in the Middle East, CIS countries and Russia.

(d) No auction centre has been set up in Dubai. However, some Indian companies have already started availing of the facilities of the Dubai Tea Trading Centre.

Social security payment by Indians in America

2966. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian professionals in America have to pay tax, called social security payment, from the moment they get their first pay cheque;

(b) whether this amount is paid back to them with interest as pension, when they come home after retirement or layoffs;

(c) whether these professionals qualify for pension only if they live and work in America for 10 years while their H-1B visas expire after six years; and

(d) whether Government propose to take up the matter with the US administration to reduce the stipulated condition of stay in US from 10 years to qualify for pension?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per US Social Security Administration (SSA) regulations, only those foreign professionals (including from India) who have been working in the USA for more than 10 years, qualify for social security benefits.